Pam
Pac. Islands

A CALL

FOR

MISSIONARY ADVANCE

IN THE

PACIFIC ISLANDS

BY REV. FRANCIS M. PRICE,

Missionary of the American Board in the Caroline Islands.

A. B. C. F. M.,
BOSTON, JULY, 1899.

Francis M. Price,
Lonsdale, R. I;

MISSIONARY EXPANSION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS.

We are urged to enlarge our work in the Islands of the Pacific,

1. *By the noble changes wrought by the gospel in these islands.* Missionaries have been at work in the Caroline Islands forty-seven years. Thirty communities, representing more than 200 islands and islets, are now evangelized. They have been transformed by the gospel. War has ceased, polygamy has disappeared, lawful marriage has taken the place of loose and lustful pairing of men and women, and new occupations and ideals engage the attention of the people. They have discarded the outward forms of heathenism, put on, to a large extent, the dress of civilization, and are rapidly acquiring a knowledge of many useful arts. Every one of these thirty communities has a native Christian teacher and his family, and a church building in which are held the usual Sunday services, daily morning and evening prayers, and a day school in which the primary branches are taught. A German trader, himself not a Christian, while on a visit to Ruk, attended the Sabbath services. He saw the people clothed and in their right minds, observed their good behavior, their attention to the teaching, their responses to the questions, their repeating the Commandments and the singing of Christian hymns, and came away, saying: "The *change* is simply wonderful; I never saw anything like it."

2. Again we are urged to this move, *by the open doors before us.* All these evangelized islands lie in or east of the Ruk lagoon. Other islands lying to the westward have long waited, and are now calling for us to "come over and help" them. Forty-seven years ago our missionaries were not wanted in the Carolines; the people were joined to their idols and wanted to be let alone. But a great change has come over them. In the olden time, when a native sailor stepped ashore on a distant island and was greeted with the question: "What news in your country?" he must reply by recounting deeds of lust, war, bloodshed, and death; and prurient crowds talked over these grewsome stories and became more and more

debased. Now the sailor has another story and different: "The people in my land have accepted the religion of life." Wars and fighting have ceased, we travel about from island to island, and there is none to molest or make afraid. We do not paint our bodies nor wear our hair long and great strings of beads and charms in our ears as formerly; but we put on clothing made of foreign cloth, go to church twice every day, keep one day in seven as a day of rest and worship, and our children are taught to read, and write, and sing. Wondering crowds have listened to these stories and gone away puzzled and to ponder. They are not told, neither do they ask, very much about the teaching. It is the *change* that has come over their neighbors in "the lands of the face of the day" that attracts their attention. They have seen the beauty of the Bride's garments from afar.

Two years ago the king of an island 300 miles away sent a request by a sailor on a trading schooner, to come and tell his people about "the religion of life," and one enthusiastic young chief sent word by a Japanese trader that he would give me $2 if I would locate a teacher at his place. Thus a waiting people has been prepared for us. The time could not be more opportune. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; for they are white already to the harvest."

3. *The lifting of the American flag among these islands is God's summons to the American churches to evangelize their peoples.* The victory at Manila threw open a door of blessing to many oppressed people, and we should now hear the Master's bugle call to the missionary to go into this island world with the message of salvation.

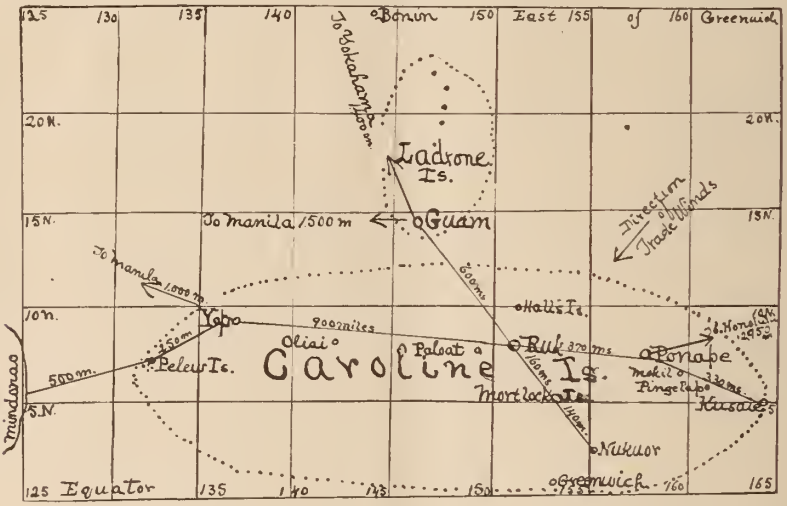
Other societies have their allotted fields, but to the American Board is conceded the task of evangelizing the Ladrone Islands. The American flag now floats over Guam, the best and most important island of the group, and America must have her share in shaping the future history of the people. Not only this, but Guam will be as a city set on a hill among the islands of Micronesia. American missionaries carried the gospel to the people of Eastern Micronesia and the name of our country is ever on their lips. Expectant eyes now look to Guam to see what America is like, and Guam must be made a center of the best that our civilization can give. This means that we give them the gospel, with its churches, and schools, and other Christian institutions. Surely the dictates of patriotism, as well as obedience to our glorified Lord Jesus, urge us to "take up the white

man's burden," and send forth chosen men and beloved who are willing to "hazard their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus."

What, then, do we propose in order to meet our most pressing obligations in this island world?

(1) Reënter Ponape. A little band of faithful, persecuted Christians in Ponape await the return of their missionary fathers so ruthlessly driven out nine years ago, and the money is in hand to meet the expense. That we shall re-occupy Ponape is a foregone conclusion.

(2) Open two new stations in the Caroline and Ladrone islands — at Yap and Guam. The accompanying sketch map will show at a glance the relative positions of Ponape, Ruk, Guam, and Yap, and their convenience and importance as centers for conducting the work in the above-named islands:



A glance at the map will show that Ruk is about the center of the Caroline group. It consists of sixteen beautiful high islands surrounded by a reef 135 miles in circumference, has many fine, commodious harbors, and a population of 150,000. The headquarters of the Ruk Mission of the American Board are at Taloas, in the Ruk lagoon, where there are two large training schools for boys and girls, a schooner and other facilities for touring among the islands of the Eastern Carolines, and a sufficient missionary force. Ponape, 370 miles from Ruk, has, with adjacent islands, 7,000 people.

Guam, the southernmost island of the Ladrone group, is a large, high island, 600 miles west by north of Ruk. It has a population of 10,000 who speak a corrupt Spanish — a language distinct from those of the Caroline group. Being now a station of the United States Navy, our ships will visit her at regular intervals, carrying mails and supplies. Through Guam we shall come in touch with the homeland ; it will naturally be the base of supplies for our mission.

The Mortlock group, consisting of three atolls with seven inhabited islands, lie south by east of Ruk 160 miles, and Nukuor is 140 miles farther southeast.

Yap is 900 miles west by north of Ruk and 1,000 miles from Manila. Between Ruk and Yap are two main groups of islands and many scattered islets. The Pelew Islands are 250 miles southwest of Yap and 500 miles from Mindanao. The languages of the Pelew and Oliai groups are closely allied to that of Yap; the other islands have a language more like that of Ruk.

In the South Pacific the trade-winds blow for six months in the year, prevailingly from the northeast. With our many and widely scattered islands, sailing is necessarily an important part of our work. Soon we shall have a new *Robert W. Logan* for this region, which can as well do the work for all the islands as for the limited number she now visits, and with very little additional cost, and this schooner can lay her course during the trade-wind season from Guam to Nukuor and return with "three sheets in the wind" both ways. Traveling along this line will be rapid and unhindered by adverse winds. From Ponape westward the ship will fly before a leading wind, but must beat her way back with much labor. Guam is therefore within easy access of Ruk and the Central Carolines, and reasonably so of Ponape, but difficult to reach from Yap.

Notice, now, the plan and estimate of costs for opening this work and continuing it five years :

First year, 1900. Open the station at Guam.

Salaries for two families, at $700 each,	$1,400
Two dwellings, at $1,250 each,	2,500
Opening of Boys' school and incidentals,	300
Outfit and traveling expenses of missionaries,	1,800
Total for first year,	$6,000

Second year, 1901.	Continue at Guam and open Yap.	
	Guam: Salaries of two families and one single lady,	$1,700
	Schools and incidentals,	300
	Girls' school building,	1,250
	Yap: Salary of one family,	700
	Dwelling house,	1,250
	Opening of Boys' school and incidentals,	200
	Outfit and traveling expenses of missionaries,	1,000
	Total for second year,	$6,400
Third year, 1902.	Continue both stations.	
	Guam: Salaries, two families and two single ladies,	$2,000
	Schools and incidentals,	400
	Yap: Salaries, one family and one single lady,	1,000
	Schools and incidentals,	300
	Girls' school building,	1,250
	Total for third year,	$4,950
Fourth year, 1903.	Continue and enlarge at both stations.	
	Guam: Salaries, as above,	$2,000
	Both schools,	500
	Teachers,	100
	Yap: Salaries, one family and two ladies,	1,300
	Schools,	400
	Teachers,	150
	Total for fourth year,	$4,450
Fifth year, 1904.	Continue and enlarge at both stations.	
	Guam: Salaries as above,	$2,000
	Schools,	500
	Teachers,	150
	Yap: Salaries, as above,	1,300
	Schools,	500
	Teachers,	150
	Total for fifth year,	$4,600

Separating the stations, we have:

Cost of Guam alone: First year, $6,000; Second year, $3,250; Third year, $2,400; Fourth year, $2,600; Fifth year, $2,650; Contingent for five years, $1,000, or *total cost of Guam for five years*, $17,900—$3,580 a year.

Cost of Yap alone: Second year, $3,150; Third year, $2,550; Fourth year, $1,750; Fifth year, $1,950; Contingent for five years, $700, or *total cost of Yap for five years*, $10,100—$2,020 a year.

These estimates cover the amount needed to open and carry on the work at both Guam and Yap for five years and provide for three dwelling houses for families and two buildings for girls. It is expected that the

boys will earn money and put up their own school buildings. They also include cost of outfits and traveling expenses of outgoing missionaries and a contingent of $1,700 to meet incidental expenses.

The following are two of the recommendations of the sub-committee which the Prudential Committee have adopted:

> We recommend the adoption of the five years' plan presented by Mr. Price, with such changes, modifications, and improvements as time and experience may suggest, the same to go into effect only when valid pledges in sufficient amount have been secured.
>
> We recommend, and encourage, and urge our brother and helper, the Rev. Mr. Price, to find one man, if possible, who will establish this new work on Guam, and, under the protection and support of our nation's flag, make it headquarters and base of missionary supplies for the new and enlarged work in the Caroline Islands; that he give the mission his name if he choose, and that he assume the support of the work for the next five years. Failing to find *one man* thus to undertake this work, we recommend the Rev. Mr. Price to offer the establishment and support of this new work on Guam and the other islands, for the next five years, to a limited number of persons in shares or proportional parts. . . .

Most gladly would we receive gifts for the support of this noble work. We are assured that no work can be more Christlike, no work yield more rapid returns, or larger, for the outlay, and that no work offers a safer investment, or promises greater satisfaction to those who give. These poor, neglected, waiting people reach out pleading hands for deliverance. Who will respond by sending them the gospel? Pledges for 500 shares of $10 each for five years will assure the success of this plan.

Will you take one or more shares? If so, kindly fill out the blank on the next page and forward it to the treasurer of the American Board, F. H. Wiggin, No. 14 Beacon Street, Boston.

There may be those of larger means who will see the call of the Master in this offer of the Prudential Committee, and desire to respond either by memorial gift or thank-offering. Does this call come to you? If so, will you select one of the following objects and avail yourself of the privilege of giving a name to the station, school, or building?

The station at Guam: the entire cost for five years will be $3,580 a year.

The station at Yap: the entire cost will be $2,020 a year for five years.

Girls' school at Guam: the cost will be $1,000 a year for five years.

Girls' school building alone at Guam: cost entire, $1,500.

Girls' school at Yap: the entire cost will be $700 a year for five years.

Girls' school building at Yap: cost complete, $1,500.

THE HARBOR OF YAP.

For the opening and support of work in the Caroline and Ladrone Islands, I promise to pay The American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Mission $ annually for five successive years, payments to be made on or before January 1, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904.

Name,

Address,

Date,